Edmonton Bulletin Burns

July 6, 1936.

There'll be a widespread regret at the retirement from the Senate of another well-known Westerner, Pat. Burns, whose birthday it is today.

No title of "Senator" or "Honorable" or that other well-known title that men like Mr. Gladstone and David Lloyd George prefer to any of the Peerage - the title of "Mister" - could do Pat Burns more honor than be known as plain Pat Burns.

I was a fellow-traveller with Pat Burns to Churchill for the opening of the Hudson Bay Railway five years ago. His new honor added not a whit to the importance that clothed him in his own right, as a man who had followed the railway contractors into the West, ranched in the foothills of Alberta before there was an Alberta, and who had been a popular and distinguished citizen of Calgary almost since there was a Calgary.

Pat Burns is one of the very few men who were appointed to the Senate without any political record. It must have given his old friend, Mr. Bennett, great pleasure thus to recognize the personal worth of this man who without school education rose by his industry and integrity to become an influential citizen of the West.

Pity is that Pat Burns was not sent to the Senate twenty years before with a score of other men like himself, without strong party feelings, but with a personal knowledge of the practical problems of life in Western Canada.

Pat showed his horsemanship to his fellow travellers when a cayuse hove in sight near Waboden. I recall his intense interest in the three clay ridges that cross the northland. He gave the opinion that cattle could feed there and be prepared for shipment by the Bay route to Britain.

As a hundred other newspaper men before me probably had done, I asked Pat Burns one evening what he would do if he were a young man in Canada today, without money or influence. "I'd go to work for a farmer and earn a cow, and start ranching," he said. He never lost faith in the cow as a friend to the farmer.

Thousands of well-wishers will regret his retirement from the Senate, and the infirmity that has led to it.

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